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diploma 432

Letter to Mr. Stans Fox

The House of Education,
Ambleside.

6.7.1904

Dear Sir

I am very glad to
have your letter (which
Mr. Franklin has forwarded)

The assurance of your
sympathy with the P.R.S.
method. It is, as you say,
not a question of your
School only but of all
preparatory schools.

I find on comparing your
~~time table~~^{of hours} with our own
 time tables that you would be
 able to keep your present ~~time~~
 hours for Latin, Greek &
 Mathematics & put in as many
 of our subjects as you see
 fit - only 6 subjects are
 necessary.

The whole question
 turns, as I have said in
 my pamphlet on the use
 of books & if I may venture

to say so, of the specified books
 by each boy.

Parents are so used to ~~say~~
 upon their book-bills (the
 very last thing that they should
 say upon) that this may be
 a difficulty. But it seems to
 me that this ~~must be~~
 difficulty must be faced
 if good educational work
 is to be done.

I am sending you
 our ~~Christmas~~ Easter

programmes & two sets of
examination answers.

I hope you will see your way
to join what I feel to be an
important reform movement.

The papers for next term will
be sent out in the course of the
week so perhaps you will
let me know your decision
soon.

Yours,

C.H. Mason
(RSM)

Miss Mason. 3

1904. meeting
out to begin

A year or two ago I read in one of the
Reviews an article on some Indian subject, in
which an Englishman describes how he had
gone with his Indian servant to a certain
town where a proclamation had been read.
(This was given in the Review & filled about
a page and a half.) A year or two later
the servant referred to the proclamation &
recited ~~the~~ the whole thing through from beginning
to end. He could not read but
remembered the proclamation after having
heard it once read.

Our whole experience is that everyone
has that sort of mental power; that
they really can, if they fix their attention
on a given subject, recite it from memory
after a single reading. We all have this
power, only we do not use it. If we
could realize this, all preparation & all

examining & all getting up of subjects
would be done with; because there is the
possibility of the single reading & the actual
knowledge of the subject. It seems to me
that knowledge is that which the mind has
assimilated & which comes out, not verbatim
but the whole thing recast. I think all
the knowledge that we get is cast in
that way; it comes out in a different form
& ~~more readily~~ than it remains with us.

Our children read a great many books.
Each book is the best that we can get
& the children go all through it from beginning
to end, & so they really know every subject.
There is nothing superficial but every thing is
done very thoroughly. When people hear
~~that~~ the children do quite a number of
things in this kind of way, [i.e. answers
given during that afternoon] they say, "Oh,
yes! all that must have been prepared; they

knows that they were going to do it."

This is not the case. The papers were sent only to the gentlemen coming to-day; they are issued to-day for the first time. And these examination papers do not cover all the children's knowledge; they cover perhaps a 20th part of what they have done this term. A certain number of papers are set, & the children could stand an examination on any page.

as Goethe says

If it be really true, that "a day is infinitely ~~and~~ long" the whole complexion of education is altered.

Admirable as the work is in our schools - really splendid - & I should like to make it plain how highly we think of most of the schools - the masters are first rate & the teaching excellent - yet it seems possible that knowledge is not appreciated. It has been the fashion to

talk of training the intellect, etc., but what ^{exp4con438 (4)} we think we have discovered is that the intellect requires no training, & that the faculties require no training, any more than a boy needs coaxing to eat his dinner if he is hungry. That is the attitude that we think the right one as regards knowledge. Put the knowledge to the boy & he consumes it with avidity. But the personal relation is a hindrance. We should like to relieve masters & mistresses of the drudgery of spoon-feeding, of the weariness of going over the same thing over & over again. If only we could get rid of the fetish of developing the faculties! There is no occasion for developing the faculties. It is really, rather a wonderful thing to think how very much these children can take in & acquire.

Then there is the fetish of co-ordination of subjects. We ourselves do not require any co-ordination of ideas in order to understand any

(5.)

subject of interest that we come across;
and neither do the children. We just believe
that children are persons. We do not talk
of the child mind. We think the children
are hopelessly ignorant until we teach them
something, but every teacher knows how the
very small child is full of brightness & zeal.

I am afraid we must make out a very
good case for what we are doing, but I
think it would alter the complexion of
education altogether, if it were generally
adopted. The teachers are not merely
examiners but instructors & guides. They
take a loftier situation altogether. They
help the children more; they open the doors of
knowledge to the children & the children go
in.

The children get such copious
knowledge that they are inclined to go on
writing for ever. And we let them, for we
think that the young human plant is not the
better for being cramped & being caged.

The children do not blunder or say absurd

things, but they know. This gives courage
& confidence in starting life. Of course
the clever boys take care of themselves;
they will have knowledge & they get it
splendidly; but the average boy, the dull boy
in this way gets knowledge too. He also
gets knowledge with a wide curriculum; he
discovers his mother, & he goes out
understanding & knowing.

We feel that this is such a course
& that it ought to be taken of.

TELEPHONE,
1983 KENSINGTON.

23plome438

37, SLOANE STREET,
LONDON, S. W.

May 16th
1904-

Dear Miss Marrow

I have written to
Mr. Gidley Robinson
to communicate to him
your very practicable
proposal to meet
Prep^y Schoolmasters
on your way through London
in July - Surely they
will make a serious
effort to get up to
London for such an
occasion - I much
hope that your date

may prove convenient
to the majority of schoolmaster
living near London.
I await Mr. Robinson's
answer with eagerness.

—
Thank you very much for
your thoughtful consideration
of my difficulties. I think
that the combination
of II & III will exactly
meet the requirements.

Yours sincerely,
Chas. Webb

TELEPHONE.
1983 KENSINGTON.

the 15th or 16th July
the 15th or 16th July
the 15th or 16th July

Informal

meeting

4 planned

37, SLOANE STREET,
LONDON. S. W.

10. 6. 07.

Dear Madam.

Stanford
Blanching

Mr. Gibbs desires me to

say that he has heard from

Mr. Robinson, who informs him
that either 8th 9th or 10th July will

suit him for the informal meeting,
and to fix date to suit the con-
venience of others who wish to

14p2mc438

attnd.

Yours faithfully,

G King

Miss Mason

i4p3cma38

Biddle

asked 10 - 15 for the quite
apm

~~Conf.~~
Meeting

9th think perhaps -
on people invited.

~~B. Huxford~~

Confined readers. Has
written to Lord

Richardson who sup
poses she will come self
with of course Cant.
May be late.

Def Carl

has not yet heard
finally, no, not have
very polite manner
has ~~to~~ I think

most probably
the the only "then
thought ed. discuss prof?

deleboen

25picmch28

Parents' National Educational Union

Presidents—LORD & LADY ABERDEEN

HYDE PARK & BAYSWATER BRANCH

Hon. Organising Secretary of the
Union and Hon. Secretary of the
Hyde Park and Bayswater Branch

Mrs. E. L. FRANKLIN

50, PORCHESTER TERRACE
HYDE PARK

(At Home Thursday mornings,
or by appointment)

10. 6. 07.

Dear Miss Mason.

I am desired by Mrs.
Franklin to say that the 8th or
the 9th would suit her, but
she would be glad to know which
date is fixed upon as soon as
possible, as the days are very
quickly filled up. If it is

the 9th it cannot be before 5.0.
as there is a P.N.E.U. Committee
meeting at 3.30. If it is

the 8th Mr. Franklin hopes you
will come on Friday or Saturday,
so as to rest before the meeting.

Mr. Franklin also wishes me
to say that it has been decided to
ask all readers of the Parent
Review to give a donation towards
extra secretarial help, and as she
wishes to head the list of donations
already ^{with your name} given, would you kindly

isp3cm438

tell her if she is right in
saying that you have most
generously promised £5.

Yours Sincerely,

Agnes I. Dyke.

fact

Stations,
Gunbridge Wells
or Gunbridge.

26p10m438

June 12. 07.

St. Andrew's, Southborough.

Gunbridge Wells.

Dear Miss Mason

I quite think I
could come up in July 9 in
the afternoon and it would be
a great pleasure to me to meet
you. I also specially wish to
ask you about Miss Clara Morris
whom I am thinking of asking
to come & teach in my School
later on if I can arrange it.

ibp2cmc438

So I will do my very best to
come if you will let me know
the date for certain. Monday
the 8th would suit me better
in the afternoon as I ought
to go to another meeting in
London at that day. & it
is very difficult to get up 2 days

summing.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Reginald Bull

itp10mc438
June 12, 07.

Dear Miss Mason,

Prof. Gregory writes
to me that the subject
you mentioned - Curricula
of Secondary Schools - would
fit in best with the
discussion on Monday
morning Aug 5 ; that
enough papers have been
arranged for, but that
we wish to keep ample
time for discussion when
an opportunity would

come for you to speak. ^{27p20m438/15}
it will probably be better to
have a discussion rather
than by taking several
papers to leave no time
for their proper discussion.

May we hope you
will come?

Yours truly,
Hugh Richardson.

i8plenc438

EASTWOOD.
BRIDGEWATER ROAD.
WEYBRIDGE.

12 June
07

Dear Miss Mason,

Mr Sadler is
not at home at
present, but I think
I can answer your
kind note to him
as I know he will
be away on July 9.
We are both going
away together &
he goes on to Man-
chester on July 10.
I will be away
for some days.

It is very kind
of you to again
ask him to meet
you, & I know
how much he
would enjoy doing
so, but he is
overwhelmingly busy
& cannot do half
the things he
would like to do!

Yours very truly
Mary A. Sudder.

June 14.07.

Dear Mr. Masan,

If I can fit it in
with another meeting I have
on July 9 (at 2.45) I
shall be very glad to join
the gathering you propose
to call together on that day.

If Mr. Franklin needs
his meeting 4.30 or 5 p.m.
I might manage it.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely
Wm. Compton.

210 p1cm438

St George's School

Harpenden

14 June

Dear Miss Lane

I should like
to attend the meeting on
Friday 9th very much - but
I am not certain as
this distance makes it
little the possible for me to
do so. Business & school
work press in upon me.

210p2emc428
but if I may be allowed
to leave it open. I hope
find it possible to attend.
The date would suit me
as well as any other.

Thank you for letting me
know about the meeting
but kind regards

I am yours sincerely

Eril Hunt
P

STATIONS { SHEPHERDSWELL } 3 MILES.
BARHAM.
TELEGRAMS, WOOTTON, CANTERBURY.

ilp1cm438

WOOTTON COURT,
NE CANTERBURY.

June 14. 1907.

Dear Miss Mason.

I shall certainly be very
glad to attend the meeting of schoolmasters
to discuss the P. R. curriculum. on
July. 9th. and if my experience of it.
should be of any use, it will be at
your service. I note you say Mrs
Franklin gives "us" the use of her
drawing-room. and hope that this means
you yourself hope to be present.

I am just sending off my short article
on the P. N. S. U. for the Prep. Sch. Review.

I am not very satisfied with it

It is a very big subject to deal with in
a limited space. and I have had to
confine myself to a mere sketch of
its origin & organisation. The object
of my article is to tell our members
of some of the work being done. and to
put them in the way of getting fuller
information elsewhere. You will have
heard from Miss Wingate about the fly

orchis. of which she sent you other
specimens yesterday. I expect she will
send you "the birds nest." and "the man"
our mascot just about here - when we
come upon them. I shall look
forward with very great pleasure to
seeing you next month. and am
delighted to think you are strong
enough to contemplate this meeting
We had a case of measles. undoubtedly
brought to us in books from Madras.
but have been fortunate in escaping

21p4cm1438

with the one case. We were clear of
infection last Monday. With our kindest
regards.

Yours sincerely

H. G. Underhill.